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Health and Food Safety Directorate General

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**SUMMARY REPORT OF THE  
STANDING COMMITTEE ON PLANTS, ANIMALS, FOOD AND FEED  
HELD IN BRUSSELS ON 25 - 26 APRIL 2019  
(Section *Plant Health*)**

**CIRCABC Link:** <https://circabc.europa.eu/w/browse/6948a43f-1f38-4a14-9658-3227df161652>

**A.01 Evaluation of recent import interceptions with harmful organisms by Member States and the need for further action.**

The Commission presented an overview of the interceptions from 15 March to 15 April 2019, highlighting 6 interceptions of *Phyllosticta citricarpa* (citrus black spot, CBS) on oranges from Tunisia, bringing the total to 7 interceptions this year and informed that Tunisia communicated to the Commission their decision to suspend the export of citrus fruits for the current season. The Commission and Member States are very concerned because this is the first time CBS is found in the Mediterranean Basin. During this period, there have been 2 interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* on mandarins from Israel, bringing the total to 6 in 2019 and Member States have expressed their concern.

There have also been 9 interceptions of *Spodoptera frugiperda* (fall armyworm) on consignments from Zimbabwe, Suriname and Peru. The Commission gave information to the Member States about the latest international activities related to this pest, as the thematic session of the WTO-SPS Committee on fall armyworm organised in March 2019 and the Consultative meeting on fall armyworm organised in Thailand by FAO at the same period. Additionally, the Commission gave details on the scope and planning of the BTSF mission to Kenya to address their request for technical assistance. Furthermore, the spread of the pest in Asian countries has been touched upon, announcing the plan to have a dedicated discussion on the current evolutions and any potential need for action.

On internal trade, the Commission highlighted the interception of pine wood nematode on wood packaging material marked with ISPM15 from Spain and Portugal.

The Commission informed about the follow-up from Kenya and Uganda in relation to the interceptions of *Thaumatotibia leucotreta* and Sri Lanka in relation to the interceptions of curry leaves.

The Commission reminded the Member States to be as specific as possible when reporting interceptions, and when possible, to identify at the species level, avoiding notifications at the level of kingdom or class (e.g. fungi or insect).

Portugal provided an update of the situation of *Xylella fastidiosa* subsp. *multiplex* within their territory. More particularly, it informed that following further investigations in the surrounding of the current demarcated area near Porto, new host plants have been found infected: *Artemisia arborescens*, *Cytisus scoparius*, *Coprosma repens*, *Myrtus communis*, *Rosmarinus officinalis*, *Ulex europaeus*, *Ulex minor*, *Vinca*. The originally demarcated area, where *Lavandula dentata* and *L. angustifolia* were found infected, has been extended accordingly, while movement restrictions remain in place and eradication measures are being taken.

**A.02 Evaluation of recent outbreaks of harmful organisms notified by Member States and of the control actions taken.**

The Commission presented the outbreaks notified by Member States between 12 March 2019 and 22 April 2019. In the demarcated area for *Bactrocera dorsalis* in Italy no positives were found. More details are covered under point 5.

**A.03 EFSA newsletters on horizon scanning of media and literature for new and emerging plant health risks.**

EFSA presented the 25th edition of the media monitoring newsletter. Main highlights from the media were reported mainly on *Bactrocera facialis*, *Bactrocera tryoni*, Citrus Huanglongbing disease, *Meloidogyne mali*, *Spodoptera frugiperda*, Tomato brown rugose fruit virus and *Xylosandrus crassiusculus* in relation to their distribution and the actions taken for their control.

The 4th pilot edition of the literature monitoring newsletter was presented focusing on the first findings of pests, changes in host range and new control methods reported by scientific literature.

**A.04 Presentation by EFSA of the updated pest risk analysis of *Xylella fastidiosa*, followed by an exchange of views on the need for revision of Decision (EU) 2015/789.**

EFSA presented the updated pest risk analysis (PRA) of *Xylella fastidiosa* based on new technical and scientific developments. The PRA focuses on potential establishment, short and long range spread, the length of the asymptomatic period, the impact of *X. fastidiosa* and the risk reduction options, including potential treatment solutions where available. EFSA informed that the PRA is expected to be published by mid May 2019. A brief update was also given concerning the state of play of the update of the EFSA pest survey card, expected to be published before the summer. Following a first exchange of views within the Committee, the Commission informed that Decision (EU) 2015/789 laying down measures to prevent introduction into and spread within the Union will be updated on the basis of the updated EFSA PRA. A more in-depth discussion will be organised with Member States.

**A.05 Presentation by Italy of the national action plan against *Bactrocera dorsalis*, followed by an exchange of views.**

Italy presented an update about the execution of the national action plan against *Bactrocera dorsalis*. The action plan is complemented by a surveillance and a contingency plan. In 2019, an enhanced monitoring programme for *B. dorsalis* will be put in place, with ca. 2000 traps in the whole country, ca. 1600 of which are located in the demarcated area, which is situated in Campania. The trap deployment is ongoing and will be finished in time before the expected earliest start of the flight season (beginning on June). It is accompanied by an information and sensibilisation campaign for stakeholders and the public. The plan also includes the monitoring of host plant material (fruits) before leaving the demarcated area.

In case new specimen of *B. dorsalis* would be found in the monitoring, the action plan foresees further measures to eradicate the population within and prevent its spread beyond the demarcated area. Such measures will include prohibition of movement of fruits out of the infested area, appropriate application of insecticides and intensified trapping following the attract-and-kill method.

**A.06 Overview of the 2016-2018 surveillance results for *Bactrocera dorsalis* in Member States.**

The Commission presented the surveillance results for 2016-2017 and surveillance plans for 2018-2019 for the oriental fruit fly *Bactrocera dorsalis* in the framework of the EU co-funded Plant Health survey programmes. Since 2016, significant resources were allocated to the surveillance of this pest.

About half of the Member States included the oriental fruit fly into their national surveys: more than 5550 measures in the framework of sampling and nearly 3400 measures allocated to testing activities are foreseen for 2019.

**A.07 Presentation by Italy of a pest risk analysis for *Meloidogyne graminicola*, followed by an exchange of views on EU regulatory actions to be taken.**

Italy presented the PRA on *Meloidogyne graminicola*. It is a polyphagous pest. The pathway of introduction of the pest is uncertain. Before any decision on EU regulatory actions can be taken, Italy should include information on the damage to other host species in the PRA.

**A.08 Exchange of views on the need to take regulatory action against Tomato brown rugose fruit virus (Tobamovirus - ToBRFV) and *Xylotrichus chinensis*.**

The Commission discussed the recent developments of the outbreaks of ToBRFV in Italy and Germany. Italy informed that they have prepared an express Pest Risk Assessment to be presented soon to the Commission and to the other Member States. The disease is spread by seed, therefore the potential impact is huge and the need to take actions (especially at import) was agreed.

The current state of art of the outbreaks of *Xylochetrus chinensis* in the EU territory has been discussed in connection to the need to have swift legislative action. The necessity of having a pest assessment was also discussed. It has been noted that there is little information on this pest and as a result any pest assessment is anticipated to have high uncertainties. It has been decided that the pest does not have the highest priority for taking EU emergency measures, based on the current knowledge. The outbreaks will be monitored closely by the Member States and eradication efforts are on-going. The very same outbreaks provide a source of additional information.

**A.09 Exchange of views on draft technical Annexes for an Implementing Regulation ('Phytosanitary Conditions Regulation') under the basic Plant Health Regulation (EU) 2016/2031, including the Annexes with the list of plants prohibited for introduction in protected zones, the list of requirements for protected zones, list of regulated plants at import, the list of regulated plants for PZ, the list of regulated plants for internal movement and the list of regulated plants for movement within PZ.**

The Commission discussed in detail the listing and requirements of *Bemisia tabaci* and the viruses transmitted, on the basis of the EFSA pest risk assessment. The discussion focused on the list of the relevant viruses and the import requirements for plants for planting, leafy vegetables and cut flowers. The situation about the outbreaks in the EU of the Tomato leaf curl New Delhi virus was discussed as well.

The discussion on the future listing and the internal movement requirements of Grapevine flavescence dorée phytoplasma continued. In the case of regulation as a Union quarantine pest, a containment approach for several parts of the EU is required, when taking into account the current presence and management measures for the pest in the EU. Discussion on the other draft annexes has been postponed.

**A.10 Exchange of views on the revision of Commission Decision 2007/433/EC on provisional emergency measures against *Gibberella circinata* (Decision 2007/433/EC).**

A first draft was shared with Member States after the Standing Committee in March for further examination. Several Member States orally raised comments and asked for clarifications during the meeting. The Commission requested Member States to submit their comments in writing by 8 May, in order to enable the Commission to carry out a systematic analysis and prepare an amended version of the draft. If necessary, further discussion may be organised by the Commission in follow-up of the comments.

**A.11 Exchange of views on the action to be taken as regards the US request for a derogation from the EU import requirements for US hardwood ammunition boxes.**

The Commission and Member States discussed a dossier submitted by US in order to obtain a derogation to the ISPM15 requirements for ammunition boxes made of hardwood before 2007.

Some Member States questioned the reasons for not treating those boxes and the risk related to the use of methods alternative to those internationally agreed under ISPM15.

The issue will be part of the agenda of the next bilateral meeting under the Plant health technical working group EU/US, Washington D.C. on 21-22 May 2019.

**B.01 Exchange of views and possible opinion of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision C(2018)2491 of 30 April 2018 establishing the work programme for the years 2019-2020 for the implementation of survey programmes concerning the presence of pests as provided for in Article 36(1) of Regulation (EU) No 652/2014.**

The Commission presented the draft Commission Implementing Decision amending Implementing Decision C(2018)2491 of 30 April 2018 establishing the work programme for the years 2019-2020 for the implementation of pest survey programmes. The main aim of the amendment is to ensure a possibility for Member States to apply for co-funding for the surveys 2020 for all priority pests, which are to be designated under Article 6(2) of the new Plant Health Regulation. The draft Decision was presented to the Committee for vote.

**Vote taken:** Favourable opinion.

**C.01 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Decision on the financing of the 2019 work programme on IT tools in the fields of food and feed safety, animal health, animal welfare, plant health and official controls in the food and feed area**

The Commission presented the proposal for the food and feed financing decision that should provide the funding for the development and operation of IT systems on the domain of food and feed safety. There is a 7% increase in the budget as compared to last year. This change is due to important developments in both the animal and plant domains of the food pillar. The Member States are invited to communicate the detailed plan/budget for the financing decision. Member States will be expected to vote on this in one of the next PAFF meetings via written procedure.

**C.02 Exchange of views of the Committee on a draft Commission Implementing Regulation laying down implementing measures for the Rapid alert system for food and feed, and rules as regards the computerised information system for notifying and reporting on listed animal diseases, the notification of the presence of, and protective measures taken against, plant pests, administrative assistance and cooperation between Member States' authorities, and the functioning of the information management system for official controls ('the IMSOC Regulation')**

The draft IMSOC Implementing Regulation was presented by the Commission for an exchange of views of the Committee. The Commission explained the rationale behind the four legal bases and the structure of the draft. The system components of the IMSOC as well as the common and specific rules laid down for their functioning, including contingency arrangements, were described. The Commission reminded that this draft has been subject to broad consultation with Member States in 2018, notably in four working groups, and informed the Committee that the vast majority of comments received were taken on board.

Further clarifications on certain provisions of the draft text and on certain fields of the common health entry document template for plants were provided. The lack of transitional measures for the implementation of the intended provisions was considered problematic for some Member States.

Member States were invited to send comments in writing. The Commission explained its intention to submit the draft for vote in May or June after completion of consultation procedures.

#### **M.01 Official Controls Regulation**

The Commission provided an update on the discussions under Article 52 of Regulation 2017/625 (the official control regulation) and on Annex III of the draft Implementing Regulation under preparation, which includes details of physical checks for plants, plant products and other objects. Annex III specifies rules on sampling for physical checks based on four level of risks.

The Commission clarified some aspects of paragraph 7 of the above-mentioned draft, on checks to be carried out during the first growing season after import. The Commission highlighted the importance to have such controls for plants for planting. Only in case of findings of a quarantine pest Competent Authorities will have to record the results of those checks in IMSOC.

#### **M.02 Financing Decision work programme 2019**

The Commission informed the Plant Health section of the Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed of a draft Decision voted and approved by unanimity during the committee meeting of the animal health section of 11 April 2019. This Decision covers the expenditure for actions in the area of Food and Feed for the year 2019 for grants, procurement and other actions such as expert reimbursements for a total of EUR 13.598.400.